

Remarks

This Election is in response to the restriction issued in the Office Action on June 24, 2004. Within the Office Action, a three way restriction was issued, stating that the claims are directed to three patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. In particular, the Office Action states:

Group A, which includes claims 74-82, is drawn to a trailing electrode downstream and in-line with the second electrode, having a diameter no greater than the distance between the trailing sides of the second electrode.

Group B, which includes claims 102-126, 153, 155 and 156, is drawn to a trailing electrode at least partially downstream from the second electrode, wherein at least a portion of the trailing electrode is triangular in shape.

Group C, which includes claims 127-152 and 154, is drawn to a trailing electrode at least partially downstream and in-line with the second electrode and proximal to the outlet.

The Applicants elect Group B (i.e., claims 102-126, 153, 155 and 156) without traverse.

Applicants are canceling the claims in non-elected Group A (i.e., claims 74-82) and non-elected Group C (i.e., claims 127-152), without prejudice or disclaimer of the inventions therein. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims in 74-82 and 127-152 in divisional applications.

Regarding Claim 154 in Group C, the Applicants have amended Claim 154 to remove the limitations of the housing as well as the placement of the first electrode and trailing electrode with respect to the housing's inlet and outlet. Among other things, amended Claim 154 recites that the trailing electrode includes at least a portion configured triangular in shape, and therefore falls within the species in Group B.

Applicants have also amended Claim 156.

Applicants are also adding new Claims 157-169. Claims 157-168 are all dependent claims which depend in part on Claim 102, which is within the elected species in Group B. Claim 169 is a method claim which falls within the invention of the elected species in Group B.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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